

SETTLEMENT WORKERS' WAYS

Harm the Well Meaning Dabblers from Uptown May Do.

In a "Modern Woman" paragraph of recent date the writer touched lightly on the subject of the young women of good families and luxurious homes who go to the East Side to vary the monotony of humdrum existences. Opinions as to the value of this work have been gleaned from various sources, from the regular settlement dwellers, from the women who have worked for years as individuals in the Ghetto, as well as from the non-resident members themselves. Naturally, these opinions are as varied as the sources of information and who shall decide when doctors agree?

The most interesting of these views is the most emphatic. It comes from a woman who knows much about the real conditions of life in that square mile of East Side which is as thickly populated as an ant hill. A little smile of derision is the first answer to the question, then this quick summing up of the entire situation:

"It would seem that the Rose Pastor incident has given the public a renewed interest in the lives of the East Side workers. Whatever opinions may be had in regard to her freedom of utterance; there can be but one opinion respecting the young woman's work; that it is genuine and has been of incalculable benefit because she knows, as few of the women who spend much of their time and vitality in that district do know, the underlying principles."

"The worker who comes down from the upper part of town intent on remedying evils which have engaged the attention of philanthropists and humanitarians for ages accomplishes very little, if one can judge from actual results, and often does incalculable harm."

"Rose Pastor, on the contrary, represents the class of workers who know, because they have been born in poverty and brought up with their own class. Let me explain by an example. If a worker like Miss Pastor walks along the street and sees a boy asleep in an ash barrel, she does not go home, arouse her friends and tell them of the awful conditions on the East Side; she does not write to the newspapers and start a subscription for the boy and after getting a few stray dollars let the matter drop to go on to a new case."

"What she does is this: She realizes

that there is some special reason for the boy being where he is and she simply and naturally gets to the root of the situation and remedies it."

"Many of the young women who come



ONE OF THE REAL WORKERS.

down here as non-residents are actuated entirely from false motives, a desire to pose, the wish to kill time in what they believe is a method of work which will place them in a picturesque light."

"What good can it do for a girl to leave a luxurious home, uptown, travel down to the Ghetto twice a week and preside at a

reading class or a dancing class? Does it solve any problems? On the contrary, does it not serve to accentuate differences?"

"I will give you an example. At the time when the 'shin-knit' skirt was fashionable, a couple of years ago, one of the young women I speak of, who had a class down on the East Side, came gowned in one of those abominably suggestive costumes. She was slight with a figure almost like a boy's, and the dress made by a fashionable tailor did not offend especially. She also wore very high heeled shoes."

"It was but a short time before Grand street was a picture of voluptuously formed young women wringing to their work in gowns so tight that they were like the skins of eels; they pounded along on shoes with awful heels, but they were in the fashion and they were satisfied."

"I don't imagine for a moment that the starter of the fashion ever knew that she

and has some especially valuable bits of bric-a-brac put away. Eleanor insists on having everything of the very best. She intends to treat these girls just as well as if they were leaders of society whom she wanted to please."

"Perhaps she invites two or three of her girl friends to come in and pour tea, if the reception is on a Saturday afternoon, or to help with the dancing and games if in the evening. They all put on their evening gowns, for Eleanor has told them the East Side girl is sensitive and she must not be dressed down to. Callers who happen in speak at home of dear Eleanor's lovely thought for the poor young men are invited to come in later and 'talk it over,' and they usually arrive before the girls go home, in their evening clothes, forming inevitable comparisons with the specimens whom the East Side girls have met. Perhaps some of these young men dance with the East Side girls, who are nearly always pretty and always graceful dancers."

"I don't mean to suggest for a moment that any of these young men are of the type who would ever think of those girls again; they are simply curiosities to them, and they are amused at the experience."

"But the girl goes back with a heavy heart. There is something wrong. She

the East Side could be directly traced to sources like this."

"There is another side of the story which is interesting too. It has to do with the sporadic help that is administered by the non-resident workers."

"More often than I can tell you, a woman of means finds in the Ghetto a boy with what she believes a great talent. She takes the boy away, sends him to school, or if it is the case of a boy who is only remarkably bright she chooses for him a profession and he goes uptown to his classes every day."

"Time goes on, the patroness gets tired, her own life may change and she may not be able to continue what she had commenced in good faith; she has made no real provision for her protégé. The little talent he may have had has been cultivated, not enough to do him any good, but just enough to make him restless."

"I know of one pathetic case of recent origin. A very clever boy was discovered by a woman I know, who gave him the opportunity to study medicine. He worked hard and seemed on the fair road to success. All of a sudden he seemed to lose grip on himself. The boy himself explained it almost unconsciously when he told the woman with tears in his eyes that whenever



THE CLUB MAN.

he went home and saw his mother working so hard supporting the half dozen younger children, and realized that he might be a present help to her instead of a future possibility, something seemed to paralyze his faculties."

"The woman left him to fight out the problem himself, with the result that he gave up his profession, went back home and commenced to work in a tailor shop."

"Just to show how little the theoretical workers in the Ghetto know the real situation, it is enough to call attention to the formation of a new club which is called 'The Married Men's Club.' I don't believe there is a woman doing real, vital work down here but finds something screamingly funny in the very idea. The poor man of the East Side is at work at a very early hour and comes home tired after a long, weary day. The only time he has to spend with his wife and many children is just

doesn't know what it is; she could not explain it if she tried, but something in her scheme of life is out of harmony. The seed of discontent has been sown. I really believe that some of the social unrest on



THE QUESTION.

Strawberry Shortcake--the Old Kind

The Sentimental Man Sighs for the Variety Mother Used to Make and Describes It.

"I sigh," said the sentimental man, "for strawberry shortcake such as mother used to make—we don't get anything like it now."

"This strawberry shortcake that we get to-day is made of cake, sweet cake, of some sort, and maybe dry and crumbly, all tasteless as sawdust or sickeningly sweet. It isn't shortcake at all. I don't want to stir the younger generation to rebellion, but let me tell how they made strawberry shortcake in the days of old."

"They used a biscuit crust, to begin with—mind that. Not a sweet, crumbly, characterless and incompensable foundation of cake, but a biscuit crust, made pretty rich. And having baked a suitable large and tolerably thick disk of such crust they split it open while it was still hot and buttered lightly the soft upper side of the bottom crust."

"It may seem to you that it was a barbarian to put butter where they were about to put strawberries, but it was really far from that, as you would discover if by any chance you should ever have the good fortune to eat a strawberry shortcake such as I am now describing."

"The strawberries for the cake had previously been put into a dish and sugar had been sprinkled over them, and then left to stand in that way long enough so that when you were ready to use them there was a little sirup in the dish. And now, having lightly buttered the lower crust, you spread on, not at wide intervals here and there a strawberry, but a layer of strawberries with some of the sirup from

the sugar, and if there wasn't a great abundance of the sirup, you put on a little cream, and if the berries were not very sweet you put on a sprinkling more of sugar."

"And then you took the top crust, which you had split off, and turned that with its top, or crusty side down on the first layer of strawberries, and buttered lightly the soft upper side of this crust and on it spread another layer of berries, with more of the sirup in which they had steeped, and perhaps a little more sugar, and then you put on a layer of cream, and—hold on! You want to eat it now? Wait a minute."

"We used to make two disks of that biscuit crust, made not too thick, and treat both in precisely the same manner, and then put one on top of the other, so building up a strawberry shortcake four stories high, and putting then a thick layer of cream on the roof over all, and there you have the real thing."

"And this was not then put away in the refrigerator to be eaten to-morrow, or some day next week. You did keep it just a little while, a few minutes, long enough for the sirup in which the strawberries had lain to soak down around here and there into the layers of crust, which it did in some mysterious but delightful way without making the crust soggy, but that was all. At that stage you ate it, in all its original freshness and crispness and richness and tenderness, real strawberry shortcake."

"I may never see it like again, but I am grateful that I can recall it, even in memory."



UPTOWN TEA.

before he goes to bed. Is there anything about a club that can do him any good?"

"The upper lower class are the people reached by the ordinary non-resident worker, and many of these are quite able to do for themselves. They form a good field for the amateur worker to experiment on, and they rapidly acquire a taste for being experimented on, but the real children of the Ghetto, actually poor, self-respecting, who will not be patronized, who have self-respect enough to want to give when they receive, are not even known to many of the men and women who have been down here for years."

"One of the directors of a well known settlement house treated the subject lightly as she showed the visitors about the spacious residence and admitted that a tea was in progress for some of the patronesses, who simply love to come down here to the Settlement."

"Anything that brings people to a realizing sense of great questions does good, no matter if the woman is an unhappy

married woman, who is seeking succor from sorrow, or an inexperienced girl. Even if marriages are formed through these Settlement visits, is that a harm? Surely not if the man and woman have such a community of interest. If no other good was accomplished than having the people who come down here to tea raised such a hue and cry about the bad street service that it will have to be remedied, could you say that the Settlement was in vain? And isn't fellowship something?"

"Must we always know the exact results of a kindly act? Surely not!"

So who shall decide when doctors disagree?



THE FORCE OF EXAMPLE.

The Speech "Gussel" Did Not Deliver

And the Fine Diplomacy Whereby the Herr Direktor Squelched a Sensation in German-American Theatricals.

There is quietude in the region of Fourteenth street and Irving place. The wave of talk that for a month whizzed through Luchow's, extended as far east as Weber's and even broke against the legs of the Philosophen Tisch at Fleischmann's, is stilled. "Gussel" von Seyffertitz has been reengaged for the company of the Irving Place Theater and on his own terms."

He is to have the stage management, will be régisseur and setter in scene of all the principal productions, and moreover will get the credit for it on the programs. There was ever such a victory in the history of German-American theatricals under the management of Conried? Was ever impudently so humbled before!

All previous conceptions of the mysteries of higher politics in the German theaters have proved to be erroneous. Gustav von Seyffertitz, the longlegged comedian of the theater, and since Mr. Conried took the Metropolitan Opera House, the real artistic head of the theater, has been reengaged long after he announced a farewell benefit."

Herr Direktor Conried sailed for Europe the other day. His steamer left early in the morning. At noon a messenger fell exhausted on the steps at Luchow's. Revived with a glass of Malvern, he was able to struggle to a table. It appeared, when he had recovered from the effects of the long run to the restaurant from the Christopher street pier, that he was on the steamer's deck with Herr Direktor shaking hands with Herr von Seyffertitz."

He related into unconsciousness after imparting to the lunch table this stirring information, which provoked a storm of controversy."

"Unmüde?" grunted a well known Fourteenth street feuilletonist, and then hid his face with a glass of beer."

Nie in der Welt, piped up a young woman who is sometimes called in to play ingenue roles at the theater. "So dumme die Herr Direktor!"

Aber er ist ja ein genialer Regisseur für die ganze Saison."

The excitement following this detail of news was intense. The beer grew stale in untouched glasses, and in the rumble of conversation one heard the names of the actor and the manager accompanied with exclamations of astonishment."

After a while all the details of the story came out. The manager of the Irving Place Theater had early in the spring indicated no desire to have Herr von Seyffertitz in his company

again. It was settled in the mind of the principal comedian of the company, and one of its best stage managers, that he was not to be reengaged."

So he decided to give a farewell benefit at the Academy of Music. As he was a very popular actor and had been in the company for eight years, it was a foregone conclusion that his friends would gather to see him. His benefit promised to be a very touching tribute to his place in the hearts of German theatergoers."

But some of his friends decided that a sensational element added to the program might make it still more of a success. So it was settled that Herr von Seyffertitz should deliver a lecture on the way he had been treated by his old impresario and should narrate the most interesting of his reminiscences of the way in which the Irving Place Theater was conducted."

The friends of the actor thought that this address would prove very interesting and one of them took the trouble to write it out in the most effective style for him."

News of this speech spread through the lower East Side and created the greatest excitement known in German theatrical circles since Barneau acted at the Yiddish Grand Theater. The tickets for the benefit were sold immediately. Even the critics on the German newspapers bought tickets and refused to accept their customary courtesies."

The benefit was to be held on Sunday. On Thursday every seat in the theater had been sold and the box seats were going rapidly. It looked as if von Seyffertitz would make the most brilliant farewell ever known in New York."

On Friday he was summoned to the office of the Herr Direktor, who had come down for a short time from the Metropolitan. He was closeted with him for half an hour."

At the end of that time he retired. His face bore an expression of satisfaction, but was not altogether calm. He had indeed a problem to solve. He found the solution, however, as the audience which gathered to hear the benefit on Sunday night realized."

The theater was packed. The audience sat intent to hear the speech about the Irving Place Theater. When the end of the program was reached there was applause for the actor who appeared several times and bowed. But he made no speech."

The audience in disappointment went home wondering. For they did not know that the Herr Direktor had engaged Herr von Seyffertitz on condition that he refrain from delivering that speech. The actor naturally accepted the terms proposed, so only the audience that bought tickets suffered."

Servia's Boom in Death Mask Postage Stamps

"Frenzied Finance" is What Collectors Call the Operation Which Led Them to Plunge in King Peter's Coronation Issue of Stamps.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—The Minister of Posts of Servia has developed a system of high finance at the expense of stamp collectors which entitles him to consideration at the hands of writers on frenzied finance. At least that is the case if the stamp collectors are correct in their theories about him.

Schemes of various sorts to get the money of stamp collectors, who number half a million in the United States and nearly 4,000,000 throughout the world, have been operated for a score of years with success, but the methods adopted by the gentleman who has charge of the postal affairs of Servia has in the judgment of philatelic experts placed him in a class by himself.

The special series of postage stamps issued to commemorate the coronation of King Peter afforded an opportunity to work on the weakness of stamp collectors for errors or freaks. These stamps are of the same size and shape as the stamps issued by the United States last spring to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. They are extremely artistic and printed in attractive colors."

The central feature consists of the likeness of King Peter and his ancestor, Karageorge, the founder of the Karageorgievitch dynasty, overlapping each other. When the stamp is turned upside down the unmistakable likeness of a third man may be seen, formed in a peculiar manner. The nostrils of the two noses form the eyes of the man; the mustaches make the eyebrows and the eye and eyebrow of Karageorge form the nose and mouth."

The discovery of this face, which is declared to be that of the murdered King Alexander, was heralded throughout the world, and forthwith there sprang up an increased demand for the stamps, which were termed death mask stamps."

But it is said that the stamps were printed in immense quantities in expectation of a great demand from collectors, and the demand was not up to expectations. The stamps were issued to be used only during

the coronation year, and they must be moved. It is at this point that the finance craft, alleged by philatelists, develops."

Simultaneously, in various quarters, appeared statements to the effect that the Servian authorities were deeply concerned over the discovery of the likeness of King Alexander on the stamps. Then followed intimations, increasing in definiteness, that the likeness of King Alexander was not there by chance, and that it was no mere coincidence, but that a deep laid scheme was behind the whole matter."

It was declared that the production of the specter stamps was part of an intrigue of Queen Natalie, mother of the murdered Alexander, to revenge herself on Servia, and the method alleged to have been employed by her was as follows: Queen Natalie had a personal friend in Paris, a designer of postage stamps, named Mouchon, who deeply sympathized with her in her bereavement and with the cause she represented."

Through trusted friends in Belgrade Natalie schemed, she was alleged, that the contract for making the designs for the stamps and Mouchon was induced to include in the design a puzzle picture, "find the late King," feature. The alleged purpose of this plan was to work upon the credulity and superstitious tendencies of the people, and particularly of the army, so as seriously to interfere with the carrying out of the revolutionist program."

It was further declared that the discovery of the death mask on the jubilee stamps was creating consternation in the Servian army, the likeness of Alexander on the reversed stamps being regarded as an omen of God's displeasure. It was asserted that disaster would fall upon all who were concerned in the massacre of their former King. At the same time it was announced that the Servian Government, in the hope of removing as far as possible the original plan of the trouble, had ordered the withdrawal of the stamps from sale and had sent agents to all parts of Europe instructed to buy up every copy of the stamp in existence at almost any price within reason."

This scheme, which collectors believe to have been a part of the original plan to unload immense quantities of the stamps, was entirely successful."

The discussion in connection with the responsibility for the puzzle picture feature became so fierce that the Servian Minister

to France was compelled to take notice of it and he officially declared that the allegations against Mouchon were groundless. Then Mouchon, the designer, rushed into print and with figurative tears streaming down his cheeks declared his innocence, and even went so far as to say that he would not accept the decoration bestowed upon him by the Servian Government in consideration of the beautiful design he had produced, until his honor had been vindicated."

The great weakness of philatelists is for suppressed or withdrawn issues of stamps, and the moment it became rumored that the Servian Government was seeking to repurchase them, the demand for them assumed the proportions of a stampede. Collectors, who had up to this time remained indifferent, were crazy to have this series of stamps."

Dealers in this country were swamped with orders for them and some enterprising collectors even telegraphed for them. Of course the price advanced, but this made no appreciable difference, any price was satisfactory; the main thing was to get the stamps."

Of course, dealers' stocks were exhausted in no time, but in the end every day appears to have been supplied, and now the demand for death masks is not so fierce. Philatelists are now wondering how they could have been flimflamed again so easily."

The fact that dealers who sold out in a few days were able to send to Europe and obtain supplies of the suppressed and condemned stamps in large quantities caused some collectors to raise the query why the Servian Government did not absorb the millions of stamps held by speculators which were being sold at only a slight advance over face value to dealers."

At any rate, as a result of the interesting campaign carried on vast numbers of these stamps were sold to collectors. The series were sold by the Servian Government at \$2 each. On the basis that 25 per cent. of the stamp collectors bought the stamps and that an equal number of complete sets were purchased by dealers for future sale, the net profit to Servia would be \$1,000,000, as not a fraction of 1 per cent. will ever be called on to perform postal duty and the cost of the stamps is relatively trifling."

Collectors are wondering what will be the result of the next employment of a hard-up nation to replenish its treasury at their expense."